

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing optical characteristics of at least one cell anomaly associated with a tumor, comprising:

(a) applying a predetermined contrasting solution comprising an AlCl solution to an in-vivo defect area associated with the tumor for optically enhancing the at least one cell anomaly associated with the tumor; and

(b) imaging at least a portion of the in-vivo defect area associated with the tumor using a first optical imaging system to provide an in-vivo enhanced tumor image, wherein the in-vivo enhanced tumor image includes the at least one cell anomaly having enhanced attributes.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[,]] wherein applying the predetermined contrasting solution comprising the AlCl solution to the in-vivo defect area ~~includes~~ comprises applying ~~an~~ the AlCl solution having a predetermined concentration of Al and a predetermined concentration of Cl.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1[[,]] wherein applying the predetermined contrasting solution comprising the AlCl solution to the in-vivo defect area ~~includes~~ comprises applying a solution of AlCl (hexahydrate) 20% w/v in anhydrous ethyl alcohol (S.D. alcohol 40) 93% v/v.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2[[,]] wherein applying the AlCl solution having a predetermined concentration of Al and a predetermined concentration of Cl comprises ~~includes~~ applying an AlCl solution having a concentration ranging from approximately 20% to approximately 40%.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising ~~including~~:

(c) freezing an excised predetermined layer of the in-vivo defect area associated with the tumor.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising ~~including~~:

(d) imaging the excised predetermined layer of the in-vivo defect area associated with the tumor using a second predetermined optical imaging system to provide an ex-vivo enhanced tumor image.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising ~~including~~:

(e) comparing the in-vivo enhanced tumor image and the ex-vivo tumor image to investigate the presence of the at least one cell anomaly.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1[[,]] wherein after step (a), the method further comprises ~~includes~~:

applying sterile water to the in-vivo defect area for further optically enhancing the at least one cell anomaly.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8[[,]] wherein after step (a), the method further comprises ~~includes~~:

applying an optically transparent sterile tape to the in-vivo defect area for sterilizing the in-vivo defect area.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1[[,]] wherein imaging using the first optical imaging system comprises ~~includes~~ imaging using a confocal microscope.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6[[,]] wherein imaging using the second predetermined optical imaging system comprises ~~includes~~ imaging using a microscope.